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Washington, DC – On Tuesday, Reps. Steve Israel (D-N.Y.) and Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.) announced the passage of H.Res.727, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month. This year, an estimated 21,550 women in the United States will be diagnosed with ovarian cancer and 14,600 will die from the disease.

“The great tragedy of ovarian cancer is that while it is treatable in its early stages, it is typically only discovered in the later, more dangerous stages. Awareness saves lives. That’s why I’m proud to continue my support of Ovarian Cancer Awareness month,” said Rep. Israel, who introduced the resolution earlier this year.

“As an ovarian cancer survivor, I know firsthand that early recognition is one of the best forms of prevention,” said Rep. DeLauro. “Far too many women are not aware of the symptoms to look for and don’t seek help until it is too late. Increasing awareness of ovarian cancer is one of the few options available to women until a reliable early screening procedure is developed.”

“The Ovarian Cancer National Alliance is extremely grateful for Congress’ efforts to increase awareness of this deadly disease. Mr. Israel and Mrs. DeLauro are both remarkable advocates for women affected by ovarian cancer and we are delighted to see the Resolution pass with such large and bi-partisan support,” said Karen Orloff Kaplan, Chief Executive Officer, Ovarian Cancer National Alliance.

“The cancer community is enormously pleased by House passage of a resolution encouraging awareness of ovarian cancer, the deadliest of all gynecologic cancers. The resolution calls valuable attention to the disease, which will be diagnosed in an estimated 21,550 women and take the lives of 14,600 women this year alone,” said Daniel E. Smith, President of the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network.

Women with ovarian cancer present few obvious symptoms and no early detection tool exists to test all women. Despite the 40 year-long “War on Cancer,” the mortality rate for ovarian cancer has not declined notably.

According to the Ovarian Cancer National Alliance, 90 percent of women diagnosed with ovarian cancer do not have a family history that puts them at a higher risk. Due to the lack of a reliable screening test, 75 percent of ovarian cancer cases are diagnosed in an advanced stage when the five-year survival rate is below 45 percent. If ovarian cancer is diagnosed and treated at an early stage, the survival rate can be as high as 90 percent.

Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month is recognized annually in September by the Ovarian Cancer

National Alliance with a series of events to increase public awareness of ovarian cancer.
H.Res.727 passed with bipartisan support.

Rep. Israel serves as a co-chairman of the House Cancer Caucus. As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, he has fought to increase funding for cancer research.